IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

21. (New) A method for providing printer recognition and management of a print job entity, comprising:

establishing a repository of attributes and status information associated with each print job that passes through a printer system;

providing an interface to a plurality of components to allow access to the attributes and status information in the repository by the plurality of components; and

establishing a job monitor for managing the repository of attributes and status information associated with each print job, for responding to a call by a printer component and for managing interactions between printer components in order to control the processing of the job.

22. (New) An apparatus for providing printer recognition and management of a print job entity, comprising:

a repository of attributes and status information associated with each print job that passes through a printer system;

an interface to a plurality of components, the interface providing access to the attributes and status information in the repository by the plurality of components; and

a job monitor for managing the repository of attributes and status information associated with each print job, for responding to a call by a printer component and for managing interactions between printer components in order to control the processing of the job. .

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the interface provides an ability for components to process a job according to requirements of the component and reports job attributes and processing status of the job for common access by other components.

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the interface provides a component access to common variables, the components presenting job attributes or status to the interface.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the a repository and interface are provided by a job monitor, the job monitor further providing logical views to obtain a next job to be processed by a component and to obtain a list of all jobs in the order that they are processed.

26. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the job monitor is used to update attributes of print jobs.

27. (New) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the job monitor determines a next job to process, the component determining valid states for a call.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the job monitor includes a multiplexor, and wherein the valid states for a multiplexer further comprise:

an unknown state for when a job identification is requested; and

a pull print queue state for the job when the job is stop-flowed at a port connection manager waiting for access to the printer because a print engine is processing another job;

wherein the multiplexer receives the job and selects to place the job in a job must be spooled state, a may spool state or must print state.

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the multiplexer routes the incoming job to the print engine or the spooler according to which becomes available first when the job is a job that may spool.

30. (New) The apparatus of claim 22 further comprising a spooler.

31. (New) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the spooler receiving a job identification request, enters a not spooled state when the spooler has not yet processed the job, enters a spooling, can despool state when the job is being written to the spool device thereby allowing the job to be selected for despooling at any time, enters a spooling, despooling state when the job is being written to the spool device and is also being read from the spool device, enters a waiting to despool state when the end of the job has been received, enters a despooling state when the job is being read from the spool device and written to the multiplexer and enters the done state when the job is finished being processed by the spooler.

32. (New) The apparatus of claim 22 further comprising an interpreter.

33. (New) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the interpreter enters a waiting for data state when job processing by the interpreter has started, enters an interpreting state when the job is being processed by the interpreter and enters a done state when the job is finished being processed by the interpreter.

34. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the a repository and interface are provided by a job monitor, the job monitor further handling incoming jobs with a port connection manager, wherein the port connection manager calls to a multiplexer to process the job.

35. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the a repository and interface are provided by a job monitor, the job monitor further deciding whether to assign a job to the printer, whether to assign a job to a spooler, whether the job must wait for available resources or whether the job cannot be processed.

36. (New) The apparatus of claim 22 further comprising a job monitor to fetch jobs in an order that is dependent upon the calling component.

37. (New) The apparatus of claim 36 further comprising a job monitor for examining process job states and variables to determine the correct response and to return an appropriate job identification for a job.

38. (New) The apparatus of claim 22 further comprising a job monitor for providing a common method of accessing the variables associated with a job for the components.

39. (New) An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a computer, the medium tangibly embodying one or more programs of instructions executable by the computer to perform a method for providing printer recognition and management of a print job entity, the method comprising:

establishing a repository of attributes and status information associated with each print job that passes through a printer system;

providing an interface to a plurality of components to allow access to the attributes and status information in the repository by the plurality of components; and

establishing a job monitor for managing the repository of attributes and status information associated with each print job, for responding to a call by a printer component and for managing interactions between printer components in order to control the processing of the job.